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LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the time that Security Council resolutions 943 (1994) and 970 (1995) were adopted, two competing expectations prevailed. Most of us hoped that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) had finally begun to reverse the disastrous course of direct aggression in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and had decisively opted for peace. On the other hand, most of us also expressed the concern that the Belgrade regime was not acting sincerely with the Council, but was engaged in a tactical manoeuvre designed to secure an easing of sanctions without a definitive turn away from its disastrous policies.

Unfortunately, it appears that our concerns were justified and our hopes, once again, have been dashed.

First, the border between the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is not just porous with violations, but has the characteristic of a series of flash-floods of strategic goods ravaging our country. Helicopter flights, bus loads of soldiers and fuel transports are all evidence of this untenable situation. We would like to express here our appreciation to the delegation of the United States of America for having brought these facts to the attention of the Security Council and for reflecting ongoing concerns with the mission of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, including failure to address compliance with resolution 970 (1995) and circumvention of the border closure through the Republic of Croatia. This straightforward approach by the United States delegation leaves some hope that the border mission of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia could be buttressed and injected with credibility, rather than the border monitoring mission becoming a rubber stamp and alibi for the Belgrade regime. It is clear that the border monitoring mission, as currently structured, is not adequate for the task regardless of the integrity or commitment of those who serve.

Second, unfortunately, the flaws in the border monitoring mission of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and the violations of the border are not the only basis for our scepticism with regard to Belgrade's

commitment to peace. After numerous chances, offered through the Contact Group (France, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America), for mutual recognition with its neighbours, including the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Belgrade regime has stubbornly refused, holding on to its perverse ambitions. For a regime that has initiated and coordinated the war and ethnic cleansing against our Republic (I call your attention here to the New York Times article of 13 April 1995, citing internal documents of the Serbian secret police as evidence of Belgrade's promotion of acts that constitute violations of humanitarian law and of the Genocide Convention, and which constitute aggression), formal recognition is the minimal step to be expected. That step has not been taken and, in fact, the evidence is that Belgrade believes that it now can dictate the road to a political solution consistent with its illegal ambitions.

We were among those that had hoped for a definite turn towards peace from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), but it has not happened. For the above-mentioned reasons, we cannot support the extension of the current regime of easing sanctions with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). When the Belgrade regime has made the sincere turn for peace and the border is no longer violated, we shall be prepared to endorse to the Council the reciprocal reward. Our Republic's territorial integrity and sovereignty is too jeopardized and the Council's authority and integrity is too precious for less.

May I ask for your kind assistance in distributing the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative